

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

From Evans, Stoddart & Co. we have received "Cuba with Pen and Pencil," by Samuel Hazard. Published by the Hartford Publishing Company. This very interesting volume is the result of a prolonged visit to Cuba made by Mr. Hazard in search of health, and its preparation served to beguile the tedious of an enforced leisure. It gives a brief account of the history and antiquities of the island of Cuba, such as will be amply satisfactory to the general reader, while the descriptions of the island itself, its people, and their mode of living, manners, costumes, etc., are very full. Mr. Hazard has command of an easy, gossipy style that is well suited to a work of this description, and that makes it very pleasant reading. It probably contains more information about Cuba than any book before the public, and as recent events in that island have attracted much attention, it can scarcely fail to be popular. The illustrations, which are from photographs and Mr. Hazard's own sketches, are numerous, and add much to the interest of the book.

T. B. Peterson & Sons send us the "Adventures of Captain Farrago" and "Major O'Regan's Adventures," a couple of humorous works that have for many years had a fair share of popularity, and that have a special interest at the present time on account of the recent death of their author, Hon. H. H. Braconridge. The Franco-Prussian war has very naturally inspired Mr. Charles G. Leland to win new laurels for his famous hero "Hans Breitmann," and we accordingly find in the fourth series of the "Breitmann Ballads" that "Hans" has been distinguishing himself among the "Uhlans." The series of verses that record the adventures of "Hans Breitmann" are quite as amusing as any that have proceeded from the same pen, and are sure of finding appreciative readers. Published by T. B. Peterson & Brothers.

From Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger we have received "Across America and Asia," by Richard Pumpelly. Published by Leopold & Holt. This is one of the most interesting books of travel that has been published of late years, and it contains a vast amount of valuable information about Arizona and other portions of our Western country but little visited, and about China, Japan, and Central Asia, portions of which were thoroughly explored by Professor Pumpelly under circumstances that afforded him unusual facilities for collecting facts of importance. We noticed this work with some degree of fulness when it originally appeared, and it is only necessary now to state that the fifth edition, which is before us, is in a less expensive shape than those which have preceded it.

T. R. Callender sends us the first number of "English Society," a handsomely illustrated English magazine which is filled with well-written stories, sketches, and poetry.

"Peters' Musical Monthly" for February contains a variety of popular musical compositions.

Van Nostrand's Eclectic Engineering Magazine for January is filled with excellent selections from the best foreign engineering publications.

From the Central News Company we have received the latest numbers of "Punch and Fun."

George Macdonald.—The Librarian of the New York Mercantile Library reports that there has lately been a marked increase in the popularity of George Macdonald's stories. He is compelled constantly to replace worn-out volumes; and notwithstanding that fresh copies are constantly placed upon the shelves, it is impossible to supply the demand. The New York Independent goes so far as to say that Macdonald is the "best of living story-writers."

George Macdonald's story bids fair to be the best story of him who is the best of living story-writers. Let us put it a little differently, and say that he will be among novelists who stand foremost in the ranks of the future. His story is so novel, so extremely fascinating, but it is the fascination of poetry rather than of story. It may be enjoyed almost in perfection by one who has not read the beginning, and who will never read the sequel; and it will remain in the memory like a beautiful dream.

We are indebted to Hon. William Moore, M. C., for a copy of the "Annual Report of the Deputy Special Commissioner of the Revenue on Commerce and Navigation for 1868."

"THE ATLANTIC."

The contents of the February number of the Atlantic Monthly are as follows:—

"The Origins of Folk-Lore," "To Fanny," W. D. O'Connor, "The Friend of my Youth," T. B. Aldrich, "Our Eyes, and How to Take Care of Them," H. W. Williams, M. D., "Kate Beaumont," H. J. W. DeForest, "A Chapter of Modern Astrology," William L. Stone, "The Story of a Famous Book," Samuel A. Green, "Castilian Days," H. John Hay, "Kittie Annie's Dream," Celia Thaxter, "The Red Hand," William M. Baker, "American Life in France," M. L. P., "Wanted, an Heir," E. F. Terry, "Our Whispering Gallery," H. "Recent Literature."

From Mr. John Hay's "Castilian Days" we take the following:—

Nowhere is the sentiment of home stronger than in Spain. Strangers, whose ideas of the Spanish character have been gained from romance and comedy, are apt to note with some surprise the strength and prevalence of the domestic affections. But a moment's reflection shows us that nothing is more natural. It is the result of all their history. The old Celtic population had scarcely any religion but that of the family. The Goths brought in the pure Teutonic regard for woman and marriage. The Moors were distinguished by the patriarchal structure of their society. The Spaniards have thus learned the lesson of home in the school of history and tradition. The intense feeling of individuality, which so strongly marks the Spanish character, and which in the political world is so fatal an element of strife and obstruction, favors this peculiar domesticity. The Castilian is submissive to his king and his priest.

banquy and inflexible with his equals. But his own house is a refuge from the contests of out of doors. The reflex of absolute authority is here observed, it is less. The Spanish father is absolute king and lord by his own hearthstone, but his sway is so mild and so readily acquiesced in that it is hardly felt. The evils of tyranny are rarely seen but by him who resists it, and the Spanish family seldom calls for the harsh exercise of parental authority.

This is the rule. I do not mean to say there are no exceptions. The pride and jealousy inherent in the race make family quarrels, when they do arise, the bitterest and the fiercest in the world. In every grade of life these vindictive tendencies among kindred are seen from time to time. Twice at least the steps of the throne have been splashed with royal blood shed by a princely hand. Duels between noble cousins and stabbing affrays between peasant brothers alike attest the unending sense of personal dignity that still infects this people.

A light word between husbands and wives sometimes goes unheeded, and the rift between them widens through life. I know some houses, where the wife enters at one door and the husband at another; where if they meet on the stairs, they do not salute each other. Under the same roof they have lived for years and have not spoken. One word would heal all discord, and one word will never be spoken by either. They cannot be divorced—the Church is inexorable. They will not incur the scandal of a public separation. So they pass lives of lonely isolation in adjoining apartments, both thinking rather better of each other, and of themselves for this devilish persistence.

An infraction of parental discipline is never forgiven. I knew a general whose daughter fell in love with his adjutant, a clever and amiable young officer. He had positively no objection to the suitor, but was surprised that there should be any love-making in his house, without his previous suggestion. He refused his consent, and the young people were married without it. The father and son-in-law went off on campaign, fought and were wounded in the same battle. The general was asked to recommend his son-in-law for promotion. "I have no son-in-law," "I mean your daughter's husband," "I have no daughter," "I refer to Lieutenant Don Fulano de Tal. He is a good officer. He distinguished himself greatly in the recent affair." "Ah, otra cosa!" said the grim father-in-law. His hate could not overcome his sense of justice. The youth got his promotion, but his general will not recognize him at the Club.

It is in the middle and lower classes that the most perfect pictures of the true Spanish family are to be found. The aristocracy is more or less infected with the contagion of Continental manners and morals. You will find the usual proportion of wives who despise their husbands, and men who neglect their wives, and children who do not honor their parents. The smartness of American "pickles" has even made its appearance among the little countesses of Madrid. A lady was eating an ice one day, hungrily watched by the wide eyes of the infant heiress of the house. As the latter saw the last hope vanishing before the destroying spoon, she cried out, "Thou eatest all and givest me none—maldita sea tu alma!" (accursed be thy soul!) This dreadful imprecation was greeted with roars of laughter from admiring friends, and the profane little innocent was smothered in kisses and cream.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

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WM. W. HARDING,

No. 326 CHESTNUT Street,

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RAILROAD LINES.

1870.—FOR NEW YORK.—THE CAMDEN

RAILROAD COMPANY'S LINES FROM PHILADELPHIA TO NEW YORK.

FROM WALNUT STREET DEPOT.

At 7 A. M., Mail and Accommodation, via Camden and Amboy, and at 9:30 A. M., Accommodation, via Camden and Jersey City.

At 12 and 3 P. M., for Amboy and intermediate stations.

At 7 and 10 A. M., 12 M., 2, 3, 3:30, and 5 P. M. for Trenton.

At 7 and 10 A. M., 12 M., 2, 3, 3:30, 4, 5, 7, and 11:30 P. M. for Bordentown, Florence, Burlington, Camden, and Jersey City.

At 7:30, 9:45 A. M., 1:30, 3:15, 5:30, 9:45, and 12 P. M. for Trenton.

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